

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 29, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25 are pending. Claims 1-5, 10, 11, 19 and 23 have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 18 has been amended. Claims 6-9, 18, 20-22 and 24 are in independent form.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 6-9, 20-22, 24 and 25 have been allowed.

Regarding Claim 18, it is noted that there is no rejection of that claim in the Office Action. That claim is not discussed in the Detailed Action and is indicated merely as pending on the Summary Sheet. It is further noted that in the previous Office Action, issued on June 24, 2005, Claim 18 was indicated as objected to on the Summary Sheet and was not discussed in the Detailed Action. In the Request for Reconsideration filed in response to the June 24, 2005 Office Action, Applicant indicated his understanding that Claim 18 was allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of its base claim (there being no intervening claims), and Applicant requested clarification of the status of Claim 18 from the Examiner. However, no such clarification has been received by Applicant. In the still previous Office Actions issued on January 12, 2005 and April 13, 2004, Claim 18 was indicated as allowed (Claim 18 was not amended since the April 13, 2004 Office

Action until the instant Amendment, except for a minor formal amendment to delete a comma, which was made in the Amendment filed on July 13, 2004). Applicant understands that, in the instant Office Action, the Examiner deemed Claim 18 allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of its base claim. Claim 18 has been so rewritten herein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable, and the subject application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner deems any of the pending claims not allowable or deems the subject application not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney prior to issuing a written Official Action.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Pinsky", written over a horizontal line.

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